

Today's News - Tuesday, September 29, 2009

- An in-depth look at what could be the future of Detroit: it could be "the Arsenal of the Renewable Energy Future" that would "regenerate not just a city but our sense of who we are" (or not).
- High hopes and big visions for Greenwich Street south of the WTC site, "an area shaken hard by ground zero construction and the recession."
- Prince Charles draws ire (again); this time from hikers who claim Poundbury expansion plans "will turn it into an isolated 'ghetto' cut off from countryside."
- Rochon revels in Toronto's new Royal Conservatory of Music: it's "sumptuous and daring" and "a piece of urban poetry."
- King on the nebulous (for the moment) future of SFMOMA's new wing for the Fisher collection; and an exhibition that "reminds us that some things never go out of style - such as our knack for dubious hype."
- USGBC and RTKL's new LEED Platinum spaces in a (not LEED) 1970s office building.
- Glancey's musings on what Foster's lunar structures might look like.
- The 2009 Toronto Urban Design Awards jury seemed to be just a bit grumpy: "The quality of the submissions suggests that there remains considerable room for improvement"; and the jurors' report: you can judge for yourself.
- Lots to brush off frequent flyer miles for: 2009 Monterey Design Conference in California; Applied Brilliance conference in New York; and DOCOMOMO US Annual Tour Day expands to include Canada and Mexico.
- We couldn't resist: London's Hyde Park gets its first new drinking fountain in 30 years: "it's big and very shiny" (and perhaps the last for awhile).

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Detroit: The Death - and Possible Life - of a Great City: ...if natural disaster had devastated the city that was once the living proof of American prosperity, the rest of the country might take notice...What's to stop us now from turning Detroit...into the Arsenal of the Renewable Energy Future? If we did...we could regenerate not just a city but our sense of who we are. By Daniel Okrent - Time Magazine

Putting Greenwich Street Back Together: ...Alliance for Downtown New York is releasing a study Tuesday that recommends a series of changes...directly south of the World Trade Center site, an area shaken hard by ground zero construction and the recession. -- Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis/LTL Architects; Transsolar; Architecture Research Office (ARO); IwamotoScott; Coen + Partners; WORKac; Beyer Blinder Belle; Morphosis [image, link to report, images] - New York Times

Ramblers tell Prince Charles to take a hike over plans to develop Poundbury: Walkers claim the Duchy of Cornwall's plans for 1,200 new homes will turn it into an isolated 'ghetto' cut off from countryside - Guardian (UK)

Koerner Hall: Gutsy vision, great vibrations: Marianne McKenna's dazzling design gives the Royal Conservatory of Music a new showcase...Sumptuous and daring...expresses a rare exuberance for reinventing historic buildings through new, contemporary minimalism...a passionate space...a piece of urban poetry... By Lisa Rochon -- Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects (KPMB) [images] - Globe and Mail (Canada)

SFMOMA mapping out wing for Fisher art. Maybe: ...there's no telling when those paintings and sculptures might be exhibited in a new [San Francisco Museum of Modern Art] wing - or even when we might know who the architect might be; "Think California" at the California Historical Society reminds us that...some things never go out of style - such as our knack for dubious hype. By John King - San Francisco Chronicle

USGBC and RTKL's LEED Platinum Interior Spaces: ...within a 1970's office building that isn't LEED certified. The spaces demonstrate how high-quality, sustainable spaces can be created within older buildings. -- Envision Design [links] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Man on the moon: Norman Foster prepares for architecture's lift-off: When it comes to building on the moon, the British architect has won the [European Space Agency] scientists' vote. But what might his lunar structures look like? By Jonathan Glancey = Foster + Partners - Guardian (UK)

Grudging design prizes: It was a grumpy panel of jurors who picked this year's Toronto Urban Design Awards...largely favoured smaller projects over more prominent ones...jury's report spends almost as much time criticizing their choices as praising them..."The quality of the submissions suggests that there remains considerable room for improvement." - National Post (Canada)

2009 Toronto Urban Design Awards: -- superkül; WHA Achitects; architectsAlliance; Hariri Pontarini; West 8 + DTAH; Sweeney Sterling Finlayson; SMV Architects/Insite Landscape Architects; Quadrangle Architects; Burka Architects/NAK Design Group/E.R.A. Architects; Montgomery Sisam/Stantec; Gehry; James Corner Field Operations/Schollen & Company; etc. [link to images, info] - City of Toronto

2009 Monterey Design Conference, presented by AIACC, October 9-11, at Julia Morgan's Asilomar in Pacific Grove, CA - American Institute of Architects, California Council (AIACC)

Applied Brilliance 2009: an original alternative to traditional executive-level, professional development design conferences; 19 speakers include futurists, economists, writers, astronomers, scientists, artists, sustainability experts, geo-political experts, digital pioneers, social thinkers...October 13-15 at the Sagamore Hotel in Bolton Landing, NY - Applied Brilliance

Save the date: October 10: DOCOMOMO US Annual Tour Day is expanding to include Canada and Mexico! - DOCOMOMO US

Return of the drinking fountain: Hyde Park has just opened its first new drinking fountain in 30 years, and it's big and very shiny... -- David Harber - Building (UK)

Copenhagen Design Week 2009: The focus was firmly on the local and national design community - and environmental sustainability...while classic, mid-century modern Danish design is inspiring, it's in the past; a new generation is looking towards sustainable and human-centered designs. By Terri Peters -- McDonough Braungart/Cradle-to-Cradle; Bjarke Ingles Group (BIG); 3XN [images] - ArchNewsNow

-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Cairo Expo City, Egypt
-- Richard Meier & Partners: ECM City Tower, Prague, Czech Republic

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